

SENIOR SERVICE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Middletown Senior Center

150 William Street

March 5, 2013

5:00 PM

1. Members Present: Commissioners: Chairperson Ed Dypa, Pat Jackowski, Annabelle Malone, Ed Rubacha, Lucy Bettencourt, Councilman Phillip Pessina and Councilman, Ron Klattenberg, Claude Hendrickson and Tom Hutton

Absent: William Wasch

Staff Present: Debbie Stanley, Acting Director

Absent: none

General Public: None

2. Meeting Called to Order: Called to order at 5:00.

3. Public Hearing: None

4. Approval of August Minutes: Ron Klattenberg motioned to accept minutes from the February 5, 2013 meeting, seconded by Annabelle Malone

Departmental Reports:

Acting Director Debbie Stanley:

- Debbie Stanley reported that the Senior Center has new procedures and rules for bus trips due to three trips where a senior did not report back to the bus. The seniors are all wearing name tags with the Senior Center information as well as emergency phone numbers. She also reported that program attendance is good with the exception of snow days. Patricia Jackowski asked about the budget and Debbie explained that the Mayor's office had requested two budgets to be submitted. One was a "zero" budget and one with a 10 percent cut. There was some discussion about the 10 percent budget that was submitted. Neither budget has been approved at this point.

Old Business

- **Building Committee Update:**
 - Ron Klattenberg informed the group that the deadline for the drawings by Silver Petrucelli to be submitted was approaching.
 - Colors are being chosen for the project
 - Approval of the canopy at the main entrance is still pending with the State Historical Society with discussion regarding safety vs. esthetics and restoration vs. preservation.
 - Construction cannot begin until grants have been awarded and that may delay the opening of the new Senior Center.
- **Update on Triad:**

- Outreach visits to various locations are coming up, beginning with an AARP meeting being held at St. Pius, continuing through all housing facilities to address needs of seniors in the community.
 - Ed Rubacha attended the last Triad meeting and spoke highly of it.
 - Patricia Jackowski suggests submitting an article for print to the Patch, Middletown Press and/or Chronicle on Triad and Yellow Dot program.
- **Bus transportation to new Senior Center:**
- There was discussion regarding the roll MAT will play moving forward to the new Senior Center and some talk about the Dial A Ride program's funding. There is concern that Dial A Ride will no longer be funded causing the program to end and how that would negatively impact seniors and disabled individuals who rely on this program. The group discussed forming a group with local and state officials to advocate for this program.
- **Senior Center Budget 2013-14 Fiscal Year:**
- The Commission would like to have representatives directly involved with creating the Senior Center budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year.
- **Commissioners attending community meetings:**
- Chairperson, Ed Dypa spoke about the value of the MESP meetings that are held monthly at One MacDonough Place where a speaker highlighted that Governor Malloy's proposed budget includes plans to eliminate the Commission on Aging which is expected to negatively impact legislation of senior issues. Commissioner Pessina reminds the group that the Governor's budget has not been adopted and that there is still an opportunity for changes to be made. Patricia Jackowski suggests drafting a letter and seeking the support of local officials to address senior concerns on the state level.
- **Follow Up to meeting with the Mayor:**
- Chairperson, Ed Dypa stated that he attempted to follow up with the Mayor's assistant, Joe Samolis, regarding MAT – bus routing to the new Senior Center and the prospect of volunteers supplementing office staff at the Senior Center. Joe Samolis indicated that he has not been able to address these items to date.
 - Patricia Jackowski inquired if there had been a decision made regarding the Municipal Agent continuing to make home visits to persons unable to get to the Senior Center, but require assistance. Debbie Stanley indicated that the Mayor's Office's directive is that for safety reasons, Laura Runte should not go on a home visit alone. Home visits have not been eliminated. Should a home visit be required, Debbie Stanley or another designee would accompany the Municipal Agent.

New Business:

Miscellaneous:

Adjournment: 5:45 Patricia Jackowski motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ron Klattenberg

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Didato Stanley

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